

Mary Jo Ross

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 5860: AN ACT RECOGNIZING PROBATE COURT EMPLOYEES AS STATE EMPLOYEES

February 17, 2015

Good afternoon Senator Winfield, Representative Tercyak, and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. My name is Mary Jo Ross. I've worked as a Probate Court Officer in the New Haven Regional Children's Probate Court for the last seven years. I'm here in support of proposed HB 5860: An Act Recognizing Probate Court Employees as State Employees. Thank you for raising this issue again this session to provide us probate court employees the right to form a union. I testified in support of this in the past.

Unfortunately, the fundamental issue has not changed. Probate employees have state employee health insurance. Our pension is invested by the state. We report to supervisors who are state employees, but we are not considered state employees.

This means that I do not have a voice in negotiating over vacation time, sick time, my wages, or my health insurance options. I do not have job security or other benefits given to state employees.

This is inequitable.

This bill seeks to provide us probate court employees with the respect and dignity we deserve.

Thank you. I'd be happy to answer any questions.